REMARKS

Initially, Applicant's attorney wishes to thank Examiners Cohen and Fulton for their courtesy in granting a recent interview during which there were discussed amendments to the claims to clarify the claimed subject matter, the thoroughness with which the application was reviewed and the notation of the confusing language in Claim 7 are welcome.

As discussed at the interview, the present invention is not disclosed or suggested from Serruys Patent No. 6,727,986, the inventor is disclosing and claiming a method and an apparatus for measuring the folding angle of bent sheet by determining the angle between the lower surface of the bent sheet and the side surface of the bending die. There are multiple measurements of distance that are performed, but these are all relative to the outer surface of the die and used to determining the bending angle rather than attempting to determine the length between the bending angle vertex and the end E of the leg. The claims of the present application require the determination of the location of the bending angle vertex and the end of the leg which is being measured.

In the corresponding European application, the Examiner has cited 6,289,592 to Tanabe which is obviously quite distinct from the claimed invention. There is a scale body (3), a rotary body (2) mounted thereon with the center rotation of the rotary body (2) coinciding with the virtual vertex of the bending angle encompassed by the side A1 to be measured and another side (A2) of the bent component (A). The center of rotation (O) of the rotary body (2) and thus the virtual vertex of the bending angle are physically predefined. To measure the side

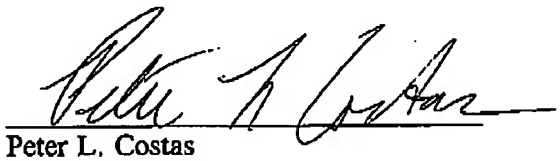
length of the legs the bent component (A) must be placed with the leg (A1) the one to be measured against the contacting side (3c) and with the other leg (A2) against the contacting side (2c) of the rotary body (2). The length of the side (A1) to be measured can be visually read on the scale body (3) as described in column 5, line 66 to column 6, line 19.

In contrast to the Tanabe Patent, the bending angle vertex is preestablished and delivered in the present invention the location of the end of the leg is determined. These two points allow the computation of the length of the leg. Obviously, the present invention is distinct from both Tanabe and Serruys.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the amended claims clearly define a novel and unobvious apparatus and method for determining the length of one leg or both legs of a bent workpiece, and early allowance thereof is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

ARMIN HORN



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